

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
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FLOOR DEBATE

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fist. You know what that's known as in the ghetto. That's what we call the African soupbone. So if you hear somebody say they're going to go upside your head with an African soupbone then you know what they're talking about. And some people want to say that we, as black men, are prone to violence. No, here's what it is. There are so many slights, so many insults, so many wrongs in the course of a single day where they should not happen that it does develop an attitude in you, a wariness, a tendency never to let your guard down. And I've given this example before. You have two lines of people. They form a corridor and you put a camel between those lines and a basket on his back, and each person in that line, and, by the way, the line stretches from here to California, each person takes a little pebble and throws it in a basket, throws it in a basket. In the same way that the ocean consists of a large number of droplets of water, floods are caused by individual drops that come down and then they coalesce, form a conspiracy and wash things away. At some point an amount is going to be on that camel's back which the camel no longer has the strength to support, and when that final pebble is thrown in, that point of no longer being able to endure is reached. The camel collapses and the basket of pebbles crushes the camel. And you know what each person says along the way? I'm not responsible; all I threw in was one pebble. And you know what the last one who threw in the pebble that caused the camel to fall will say? My pebble was the last one but, had not all those other people prior to the camel reaching me not thrown pebbles into the basket, this would not have happened. And nobody is responsible, but the camel lies there crushed as a result of the collective actions of like-minded people engaging in the same kind of conduct. And when the camels object the pebble droppers will say, you're imagining things; it's not like what you think at all. And they want to divert attention to something else and act like you are crazy, and that's the way white people often engender in black men and women and even children what white people refer to as an attitude. See, I'm giving you all a concrete example right here and the sucker wouldn't tell me his name when I asked for it. You think a general can ask a private, what's your name? And he refused to give the name. I told that to the Clerk, his boss, but he wants to hire a private detective to see if I'm telling the truth. He wants to hire a